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*The Kentucky Department of Education's mission is to prepare all Kentucky students for next-generation learning, work and citizenship by engaging schools, districts, families and communities through excellent leadership, service and support.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** The department has reconfigured the ISN distribution list based on the audience who attended the Unbridled Learning Summit on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Each district, higher education institution (public, private and KCTCS), P-16 council and educational partner (e.g., KASA, KEA, CCLD, KSBA) has representation on the revised distribution list. Some of the district names are the same as before but many have changed. As a recipient of the ISN Newsletter, it is your responsibility to share it with your colleagues. Thank you for your assistance as we launch the work of the reinvented ISN.

## ***Senate Bill 1 (2009) Update***

### **Content Standards Revision: Kentucky's Core Academic Standards**

KDE provided an online survey for all stakeholders to provide feedback on the public draft of the Common Core State Standards for mathematics and English/language arts. This feedback was submitted to the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors' Association (NGA) on April 2nd. A summary of the survey results is attached. In the state-led process, CCSSO and NGA will use the feedback from the states to make further revisions to the standards. A final release of the standards is expected mid-May. Assessment of the new standards will not begin until the 2011-2012 academic school year.

To see the information about standards shared at the Summit, click [here](#).

### **Standards Professional Development Rollout: Kentucky Instructional Leadership Team Networks**

A professional development plan to rollout the standards was explained at the Unbridled Learning Summit. KDE will be working alongside the eight educational cooperatives to facilitate a network approach to professional development. A network design, the *Kentucky Instructional Leadership Team Networks*, is grounded in research-based practices aimed at implementing large-scale professional development initiatives. KDE has applied the "lessons learned" from other statewide professional development initiatives in order to build capacity with district-level

leadership teams. Four leadership networks will be established and will be designed to ensure a coordinated and consistent message is delivered pertaining to the implementation of the standards leading to highly effective teaching and learning at the classroom level. Districts are asked to establish Instructional Leadership teams that would send representatives to networks specified below:

- Content Leadership Network (three representatives from the building level – e.g. teacher leaders or instructional coaches)
- Administrator Network (three representatives from the building level – e.g. principals)
- ISN Network (three representatives from the district level – e.g. instructional supervisor, special education coordinator, professional development coordinator)
- Superintendent Network (one representative from the district level)

The intent of the leadership networks is to build capacity within every district and to build upon the work already established through the *Assessment for Learning Seminars* held early in the year. Through these networks, the standards rollout will take this work to the next level.

A timeline for the network activity is outlined below. Each network will enable participants to be able to model and serve as lead facilitators for others in their schools and districts,

- July 2010 and ongoing - **utilize provided resources, tools, protocols and more**
- August to December 2010 - **deconstruct content standards** into clear learning targets
- January 2011 and ongoing - **design high quality formative and summative assessments**
- January 2011 and ongoing - **plan rigorous and congruent learning experiences**
- January 2011 and ongoing - **select evidence-based strategies and resources** to enhance instruction
- December 2010 and ongoing - **work collaboratively** within and across networks **to populate an online repository for instructional resources**
- September 2010 and ongoing - **support other educators** in their districts

2009's Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) outlines several specific topics to focus professional development for educators across the state. The state's first priority is to ensure all educators have access to the Kentucky Core Academic Standards and have a deep understanding of how to implement and translate these standards into practice. The Leadership Networks are creating an infrastructure to accomplish this work.

Handouts and presentations on the professional development rollout which was explained at the summit can be accessed [here](#).

### **Assessment and Accountability System:**

Exciting, yet challenging, opportunities lie ahead as we move forward as a state with the creation of a new assessment and accountability system. The Interim Assessment Process

Regulation (703 KAR 5:060), recently approved by the Kentucky Board of Education, removes all references to the old accountability system and covers the remaining two years of the interim period (2009-2011). This regulation ensures all student assessments, data collection and reporting continue for the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. State-required assessments during the interim period include:

- the Kentucky Core Content Test (KCCT) [reading, mathematics, science, social studies and on-demand writing],
- a norm-referenced test (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills),
- readiness exams (EXPLORE, PLAN and the ACT), and
- data collection (nonacademic, including graduation rate)

The National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability (NTAPAA) and the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) advise and make recommendations to the Kentucky Board of Education. Both councils have entered into meaningful discussions around the implementation of SB 1 and the design of Kentucky's new assessment and accountability system, scheduled to begin in 2012. Major topics for discussion have included:

**End of Course (EOC) Assessments** were approved by the Kentucky Board of Education for future high school assessments, beginning in 2011-2012. Guiding questions remain, including which courses should be offered and how many, block/trimester schedule issues, paper or online, cost, and accountability model.

**Accountability Models:** Areas of discussion include:

- College and Career Readiness (EPAS)
- Balanced Scorecard
- Student Growth
- Achievement Gap

**Diagnostic Testing in Primary:** Based on SB 1, Kentucky schools with primary level students are required to use diagnostic assessments and prompts that measure readiness in reading and mathematics. Schools are charged to use measures that are developmentally appropriate. They may use commercial products or products and procedures developed by the district or develop their own diagnostic procedures. The results will be used to inform the teachers and parents or guardians of each student's skill level. Schools must meet this requirement by May/June 2011.

**Lexile/Quantile Linking Studies:** The Lexile Framework® for Reading is a unique resource for accurately matching readers with text. The Quantile Framework® for Mathematics is a scientific approach to measurement that locates a student's ability to think mathematically and solve problems in an orderly classification of mathematics skills, concepts and applications. Both scales (developed by MetaMetrics, Inc.) match the student's ability to the difficulty of text or mathematical tasks. Work is underway with volunteer districts and schools to conduct research studies that will establish Lexile and Quantile measures for the Spring 2010 Kentucky Core Content Test (KCCT).

Other areas of discussion for SB 1 accountability include program reviews and how to promote a balanced assessment system with formative and interim assessments.

### **Program Reviews:**

The program reviews for arts & humanities, writing and practical living/career studies are currently being piloted by 48 schools in 34 districts across the Commonwealth. In addition to receiving valuable feedback from the pilot schools, KDE also is soliciting feedback from other stakeholders. A feedback survey, along with links to recorded WebEx trainings held in March, can be found at <http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Program+Reviews/>. Please inform your teachers about this link.

*Coming Soon:* A number of questions have been submitted from districts/schools about the program review tools and process. KDE will have a Frequently Asked Questions document posted very soon. A few questions that have been received are outlined below:

Q: How will this document be integrated with the new core standards document?

*A: While these two resources should align, the program review documents and the standards documents are for two different purposes and therefore should not be integrated into one document. The program reviews call for alignment with state and national standards.*

Q: Where can I find (the/a) list of “complex 21<sup>st</sup> century skills?” What specifically is included in 21<sup>st</sup> century skills?

*A: The program reviews include the language contained in descriptions from The Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. You may find information from their website ([http://www.p21.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=120](http://www.p21.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=120)).*

Q: How do I balance arts process versus arts product at my grade and developmental level?

*A: Arts educators are expected to utilize their pedagogy at specific developmental levels of their students and to use their professional judgment as to how to assess their students’ mastery of creating, performing and responding to artworks.*

Please continue to submit your questions to [kdeprogramreviews@education.ky.gov](mailto:kdeprogramreviews@education.ky.gov).

### **College and Career Readiness Initiatives:**

SB 1 established several ambitious goals for the state to ensure all Kentucky students are college and career ready. Several key educational initiatives are outlined below which are designed to enhance college readiness and degree completion in Kentucky.

A primary result of this legislation is a mandate for the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), and the Kentucky Department of Education

(KDE) to develop a unified strategy to reduce college remediation rates of recent high school graduates by at least 50 percent by 2014 from the rates in 2010. Additionally, the higher education community must increase the college completion rates of students enrolled in one or more remedial classes by three percent annually from 2009 to 2014. Over the past year, CPE and KDE have partnered to develop a unified strategic plan.

The ACT benchmark scores will be one of several data points defining college readiness. The fall 2010 systemwide college readiness standards are defined in 13 KAR 2:020 and are based on the following ACT subject scores: English (18), mathematics (19), and reading (20).

CPE and KDE have identified four key strategies to promote college and career readiness and degree completion:

- Accelerated Learning Opportunities (e.g., focusing on the expansion of AP/IB access and dual credit opportunities)
- Secondary Intervention Programs (e.g., focusing on the development of transitional coursework)
- College and Career Readiness Advising (e.g., focusing on the full implementation of the Individual Learning Plan)
- Postsecondary College Persistence and Degree Completion (e.g., focusing on bridge programming, accelerated learning opportunities, and student support and intervention systems)

CPE and KDE have developed cross-agency work teams that include the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), four-year institutions and other external agency partners to develop the strategies and goals for this plan. The draft plan will be available for review within the coming months. The plan will include action plans, useful resources, and expected outcome measures for each of the strategies promoting readiness and degree completion. Specific metrics to measure progress have been drafted in order to report back to the respective agencies and the Interim Joint Committee on Education and the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue.

## ***Resource Section***

Establishing effective Instructional Leadership teams at the district and school levels will be crucial to the rollout and successful implementation of the new standards. In order to assist districts and schools, KDE would suggest districts evaluate/rate their level of implementation of professional learning communities within their schools districtwide. KDE asks that each district go to the link below to complete a survey in order to provide necessary feedback for the agency in determining the level of support needed across the state. We know that it may take three to five years to have high-functioning professional learning communities in place. Hence, KDE is committed to working with the educational cooperatives to ensure that each district/school identify “areas of need” in order to bring districts/schools up to a high level of implementation of professional learning communities. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below.

To access the PLC survey tool, click [here](#). If you have questions, contact Jeff Stamper at 502-564-4201 or [jeffrey.stamper@education.ky.gov](mailto:jeffrey.stamper@education.ky.gov).

## ***Update on Race to the Top(RTTT)***

Our strategy for resubmission of Kentucky's RTTT application is three-pronged. First, we will work on all areas to address the reviewers' comments. Second, we will work on the "Great Teachers" portion of the application with a subgroup of educators to clarify concerns from the reviewers' comments. Finally, we are working with proposed legislation to address the deficit of points due to not having charter schools. In case you missed the Commissioner's analysis of the Phase 1 RTTT scoring, it is attached, along with a chart that summarizes the scores of all finalists. We strongly believe that with charter legislation and other improvements to the plan, we will be funded in phase 2 of this competition. This, of course, would mean Kentucky would have access of up to \$175 million in federal funds. Of this total allocation, \$100 million will be awarded to school districts (\$87 million through the Title I formula and the balance through innovation grants to support STEM efforts and other innovations).

If you have questions about RTTT-Phase 2, please contact David Cook, RTTT Project Manager at [david.cook@education.ky.gov](mailto:david.cook@education.ky.gov).

## ***Transforming Education in Kentucky Task Force (TEK)***

Superintendents were invited to hear Marc Tucker, the president of the National Center on Education and the Economy. He spoke at the most recent TEK in Jefferson County on April 15<sup>th</sup>. In conjunction with this meeting Mr. Tucker explained the Board Examination System pilot project to our superintendents. Many of our districts will have the opportunity to participate in this pilot project. Funding for this work has been made available through the Gates Foundation. If you have questions about this pilot initiative, please contact Deputy Commissioner Ruth Webb at [ruth.webb@education.ky.gov](mailto:ruth.webb@education.ky.gov).

## ***Quotable Quotes***

*"Teachers must experience in their professional learning the same type of formative assessment processes we'd like them to use with kids, such as building a portfolio of their increasing classroom assessment competence and confidence. Teachers are then responsible for telling the story of their own learning, and there's a sense of efficacy that comes from that."*

– Rick Stiggins

### **Education Links**

[ISN Web page](#)

[Content Networks](#)

[Refocusing Secondary](#)

[Professional Development Opportunities Bulletin](#)

[Board](#)

[Improvement Planning Web Site](#)

[Teaching Tools](#)

[SISI Toolkit](#)

[Kentucky Education Cooperatives](#)

